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for the advancement of which our Society was established, and which tend at the same time to the glory of the nation that protects them, and to the happiness of the whole civilized world."

These Addresses were unanimously adopted by the Society.

The following letter was read from G. G. Anson, Esq., addressed to the President, enclosing a specimen of a deposit with which nine acres of land near Exeter, belonging to Lord Radnor, had been covered after the subsidence of a flood, and which was sent by H.R.H. Prince Albert, F.R.S. :—

" *Buckingham Palace, June 8, 1840.*

" MY DEAR LORD,

" His Royal Highness Prince Albert has commanded me to forward to you the enclosed specimen, which has been sent up to His Royal Highness from Lord Radnor's place near Exeter, where nine acres of land were covered with this curious substance after a flood had subsided. His Royal Highness thinks it very probable that the subject may already have been brought before the Royal Society, but in case it should not have been, he sends the accompanying packet. It is said that a good deal of it has been applied to the purpose of making waistcoats for poor people.

" Believe me,

" My dear Lord,

" Yours very faithfully,

" G. G. ANSON.

" *The Marquis of Northampton, President of the Royal Society.*"

The following description of the specimen referred to in the letter, drawn up by John Lindley, Ph. D. F.R.S., was also read :

" Description of the Specimen referred to in the preceding letter." By John Lindley, Ph. D., F.R.S.

The plant which overran Lord Radnor's land is the *Conferva crispa* of Dillwyn, which is said to be the *Conferva fluviatilis* of Linnæus. The species inhabits fresh water, and multiplies with great rapidity, forming entangled strata. The green portion is the *Conferva* in its young state, the white portion is the plant old and bleached. The whole mass consists of articulated filaments, among which are fragments of grass-leaves.

The following papers were then read, or their titles announced :—

1. An Account of Experiments on the Reflecting Telescope. By the Right Hon. Lord Oxmantown, F.R.S.

This paper enters minutely into the details of the experiments, of the precautions requisite to ensure success, and of the manipulations ultimately adopted in forming a speculum three feet in diameter, subsequently applied to a telescope, mounted in a manner very similar to that of Sir John Herschel. The author states, as the results he arrived at, that specula can be made to act effectively, when cast of the finest speculum metal, in separate portions, and retained in